

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00121 160342Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1305
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
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UNCLAS QUEBEC 0121

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJ: RYAN VICTORY

1. AS EXPECTED, CLAUDE RYAN WON LOPSIDED VICTORY TODAY, APRIL 16, TO BECOME NEW QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADER. FINAL VOTE WAS 1748 FOR RYAN AND 807 FOR HIS OPPONENT, RAYMOND GARNEAU. VOTE TOOK PLACE BEFORE A CROWD OF SOME 10,000 WHICH LIBERALS CLAIM IS LARGEST NUMBER EVER TO ATTEND A POLITICAL CONVENTION IN QUEBEC.

2. RYAN VICTORY CAME AT END OF HARD FOUGHT, MANIFESTLY OPEN CAMPAIGN. IN HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, THE NEW PARTY CHIEF TOLD LIBERALS THAT PARTY HAD EMERGED RENEWED FROM LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN AS MOST OPEN PARTY IN QUEBEC HISTORY. HE SET PARTY UNITY AS HIS FIRST PRIORITY, AS WELL HE MIGHT AFTER HARD AND DIVISIVE FIGHT. GARNEAU SUPPORTERS AT CONVENTION WERE NOTICEABLY CHAGRINED AT OUTCOME, BUT LOSING CANDIDATE ACCEPTED DEFEAT WITH GRACE AS THE CHOICE OF THE MAJORITY ARRIVED AT THROUGH DEMOCRATIC MEANS. HE PROMISED HIS SUPPORTERS TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE IDEALS WHICH ANIMATED HIS CAMPAIGN IN PARTY COUNCILS AND IN LIBERAL CAUCUS AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

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3. RYAN ENDED HIS VICTORY REMARKS WITH WARNING TO CANADIANS IN OTHER PROVINCES THAT THREAT TO CANADIAN UNITY HAD NOT BEEN ENDED WITH CHOICE OF CLAUDE RYAN AS NEW LIBERAL LEADER. HE PROMISED OPEN FRATERNAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM ONCE THE LIBERALS RETURNED TO POWER IN QUEBEC, IN AN EFFORT TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS WHICH TROUBLE PRESENT CONFEDERAL SYSTEM. HOWEVER, HE PROMISED

THAT THE SOLUTIONS HE WOULD WORK FOR WOULD BE WITHIN UNITED,
FEDERAL CANADIAN CONTEXT.

4. COMMENT: QUEBEC LIBERALS HAVE NOW CHOSEN THEIR MOSES,
IN IMPRESSIVE LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN. IT NOW REMAINS TO BE SEEN
WHETHER HE WILL BE ABLE TO PART THE POITICAL WATERS IN QUEBEC.

5. FURTHER COMMENT FOLLOWS BY SEPTTEL.
MCNAMARA

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NNN

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